(d) The percentage ash in the blended coal has a direct bearing on the coke rate in the blast furnaces and its productivity. A 10 Kg. reduction in coke rate is expected to reduce the cost of production of steel by Rs. 19/- per tonne.

Demands of peasants and agricultural workers in Punjab

2140. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the peasants and agricultural workers organisations of Punjab launched Satyagraha to stress upon the demands of flood victims and participated in 'Jail Bharo' movement recently;

(b) if so, what are their demands;

(c) whether the State Government had compensated flood victims at the rate of Rs. 700 per acre for the crops destroyed by floods and two quintals of wheat to each of the family of agricultural workers and peasants during 1987; and

(d) whether there was a death of a satyagrahi due to negligence of Jail authorities and Jail Doctors in Central Jail Patiala and whether the Jail Committee of Satyagrahis and Sangahursh Samiti demanded judicial enquiry into the said death; if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Service rules for District Rural Development agencies (DRDAs)

2141. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India had formed 'District Rural Development Agencies' (DRDAs) vide their Notification dated the 3rd February, 1970 employing about 20,000 workers and lacks engaged in allied programmes like TRYSEM DWCRA, RLEGP etc.;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these workers have been kept as temporary for the last 19 years;

(c) the reasons for not framing the service rules in respect of these employees and denial of benefits to other Government employees;

(d) whether Government have received any charter of demands from All India DRDA Employees Union; if so, the details of the demands and reaction of Government thereto;

(e) what steps are being taken to regularise the services of DRDA employees under definite service rules; and

(f) whether it is a fact that Government are intending to wind up DRDAs; if so, what are the alternatives for absorption of DRDA employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Letter No. 1121/69| Agri. Credit dated 3-2-70 deals with decision *inter alia* to set up 45 Small Farmer Development Agencies (SFDA) Projects during the 4th Paln period. DRDAs were set up in all districts only after 2-10-80. They are registered societies under the administrative control of State Governments and charged with responsibility of implementing programmes like IRDP, TRYSEM, DWCRA etc. The State Governments lay down service rules and other conditions of service of these employees. Most of the employees in DRDAs have been recruited subsequent to 2-10-80.

(c) Since, the DRDAs were set up only after 2-10-80, the erstwhile Ministry of Rural Reconstruction had written to the State Governments on 30-5-81 about framing regular service rules for DRDA employees, and highlighted the need to take up staffing with a long term perspective. The Department of Rural Development has also been reminding the State Governments for taking early action. Most recently the Minister of State for Rural